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files

18 December 1957

Intelligence Information Staff,
Requirements Branch

THRU : Chief, Industrial Division, ORR
Chief, Medium Machinery Branch, D/I

25X1X4

Requirements [REDACTED]

25X1X

1. [REDACTED] give the total Czechoslovak production of machine tools (in value, units and/or weight) and metalforming equipment (in value, units and/or weight) for 1956 and 1957. Production by major plants?
2. What percentage of total production of machine tools is allocated for export? Give breakdown of exports to USSR, Bloc countries, and West.
3. What progress has been made toward an integration of Soviet Bloc machine tool production? What role is Czechoslovakia to play under this program?
4. Is there any indication of the construction of new machine tool plants or expansion of existing plants? How many plants are currently engaged in the production of machine tools, and approximately how many are TOS (United Machine Tool Plants) plants?
5. If possible indicate the distribution of any one year's production of machine tools to all consumers, i.e., what percentage went to the machine building industry, shipbuilding, etc.
6. What is the composition of the machine tool park. Give the inventory of machine tools in Czech industry, and predominate types? What is the policy in replacing obsolete models?
7. Czechoslovakia has recently announced a plan for a far reaching reorganization of industry. What was the attitude of engineers and managers with whom you came in contact toward the need for such a reorganization?
8. What is your evaluation of the design and quality of Czech machine tools and other products produced in the plants which you visited? Can you compare these with counterparts of British, American, French, German, or Italian design?

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25X1X

SUBJECT: Requirements 

9. Was there an atmosphere of change in the plants? Was there any talk about the introduction of speedier automatic labor-saving equipment, or of changing layout or use of new materials handling systems.

10. What is your opinion of the competence of the men in charge of product design and production control?

11. What was the attitude of Czechoslovak engineers toward the Soviets and the achievements of Soviet Engineering? How many of the Czechs whom you met had participated in inspection tours of the USSR? How many Russian engineers did you meet? What were the major interests of these engineers?

12. Do you recall any evidence of any change in product design or production methods caused by the use of Soviet standards in the Czech plants? Did you ever discuss standardization with Czech engineers, and if so what did they think about Soviet standards? Unifying engineering standards within the Bloc? The need for simplification of product design by use of standard components?

13. From your knowledge of Czech productive facilities and the attitudes of their engineers and managers, do you think that a speedy change over can be made from present methods of production with its high content of manual work to a greater dependence on automatic or semiautomatic labor-saving machinery with the great increase in complexity entailed in automatic controls.

25X1A9a



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